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R.F. Mariano
Publisher-Editor

Voice: 904-783-3319 10 AM-4 PM EST

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> From the Editor's Desk "Saying it like it is!"

The "Information Highway" is blossoming along at full speed. In the weeks to come, STReport will be doing a comprehensive overview of the various online services. We'll be taking a look at the good the bad and the ugly of each of the major services. The online community is a thriving area of telecommunications that is just "coming of age". Until a short while ago, many of the whigs in the computing community felt that a mere ten to fifteen percent of the computer owners owned and used a modem on a daily basis. That is all changing rapidly now as they and many others are realizing there are many more modems in use then they were informed of. We coulda told 'em eh?

The Jaguar... its becoming a very well known name throughout the southeastern portion of the country. Why? The Jacksonville Jaguars! That's why. Its wonderful to hear how many folks have mentioned "Gee wouldn't it be pretty neat if Atari and The Jaguars did something together? The Jaguar from Atari is new, and the Jax Jaguars are new too. Hmmm, you never know. Both show big potential and both have the support of many fine people.

On the software front, Word Perfect is getting set to release an update to its Windows version. Its reported to have some very nice "tweaks" added to it to make the user's life a lot easier.

My my, but Dallas sure silenced many with their stunning victory over the Bills. Oh well there's always next year. (I'm a Jaguar Fan)

Ralph....

STReport's Staff

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Publisher -Editor

Ralph F. Mariano

Lloyd E. Pulley, Editor, Current Affairs

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**** IBM Drops Pentium Rights ****

Reports say that IBM has agreed to give up its rights to fabricate Intel Corp.'s Pentium and successor chips for its own use, in exchange for an undisclosed cash sum, "other considerations", and the right to make 80486 variants in larger numbers than was previously permitted.

Sources say that the latter right "could prove extremely valuable, since presumably IBM is entitled to develop ever more powerful and functional variants provided that they do not infringe on anything that is specific to Pentium -- and the need for the complexity of Pentium for the average user is still far from proven."

Analysts say this move demonstrates the firm's confidence in the PowerPC chip it is developing with Apple Computer Co. and Motorola Inc. Speaking with The Wall Street Journal, IBM strategist James Cannavino said, "We've made a commitment to PowerPC. We just didn't think it was productive for us to make Pentiums."

**** Canon Releases Bubble Jet Unit ****

Canon Computer Systems Inc.'s \$399 BJ-200e bubble jet printer has been released. Canon is quoted as saying the new printer offers improvements to ink jet graphics printing quality and is the same price as the original BJ-200 model.

**** Microcom Enhances Modem Line ****

Two new 28.8 kilobits per second modems have been added to Microcom Inc.'s DeskPorte FAST product line, entering at \$299 and \$399. They are to begin shipping this month. In addition, the company is offering a 14.4 kilobit modem for \$239, available immediately. A laptop version is to come to market later this year.

**** TI to Cut 700 Jobs ****

While boosting research and development spending, Texas Instruments officials say the firm will cut 500 jobs from defense electronics unit and 200 in its consumer and peripheral products businesses.

**** Apple Ends Up Ahead ****

Even though IBM traditionally has a strong fourth quarter, which lead many observers to believe that IBM would end the year as the industry leader, Apple Computer held onto its lead and emerge the winner for 1993 PC shipments. The computer maker shipped 2.08 million PCs last year. That's about 23,000 more than IBM. Despite supply constraints on several products, IBM sold 130,000 more units than Apple in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, Compaq Computer, which has been at the forefront of the PC price wars for the past two years, fell to third last year with 1.54 million unit.

Dataquest researchers say the top three PC companies increased their collective share of the U.S. market from 29% in 1992 to 38.5% in 1993.

**** Intel To Sponsor Chess Tournaments ****

Intel Corp. announced this week that it has become the sole title sponsor for Professional Chess Association events.

A series of four Intel World Chess Grand Prix Tournaments to be held throughout the year. Two qualifying tournaments will identify a challenger for the 1995 World Chess Championship match against Garry Kasparov, the reigning world champion.

The school chess program will be implemented by Intel with the assistance of the American Chess Foundation.

**** AOL's Numbers Continue to Grow ****

America Online's revenues doubled for the quarter ending in December, while its earnings were flat. But according to chief financial officer, Lennert Leader, these figures only tell just part of the story. Leader said the comparisons were heavily influenced by tax benefits taken in the previous year.

The company had about 531,000 subscribers at the end of the year, but that number is now at about 600,000. The company had 219,000 subscribers at the end of 1992. Leader said that the company is conservative in how it calculates that number. "If we have a household with one account and three people accessing it, it is not three subscribers. They cease to be a customer when they cancel their service."

America Online recently said it would have to limit use of its service as it seeks to upgrade its systems to handle the growth.

**** CompuServe Offers IRS Forms On-line ****

Do you need this year's IRS forms and don't want to go running around trying to locate them? Don't despair! CompuServe and Adobe have teamed up to let you download 450 forms or instruction sheets along with a Mac, DOS, or Windows compatible copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader, so you can print out the forms in IRS acceptable form.

This is not a tax preparation program which will compute your taxes and then print completed IRS 1040 and other tax forms ready for your signature, but it does provide a way for CIS subscribers to get blank forms electronically - forms which they can then print out as many times as they want on their own printers.

To find the files and locate the one you want to download type GO TAXFORMS at the CIS prompt. A search feature lets you quickly locate all forms which contain key words such as "charity." Callers can also locate particular forms using the form number if they already know what forms they need.

You will also need to download a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader to print out the blank forms. Mac and Windows versions of Acrobat Reader

are now on-line and the DOS version is scheduled to be posted by mid-February.

However, you will have to pay normal connect time charges to download the forms and the Adobe software.

**** Online Subscribers Now Top 4.5 Million ****

Analyst Gary H. Arlen says the number of subscribers to online services jumped 31% last year to 4.5 million, with more than 700,000 new users signing up during the holiday season alone.

Writing in the Washington-based Information and Interactive Services Report newsletter, Arlen called this the "biggest growth in several years ... an unprecedented 18.4%" quarterly increase. As causes, Arlen cited "a holiday season selling binge and the much-hyped Internet frenzy."

******* General PC News *******

**** Microsoft Cuts Price of 'Works For Windows' ****

In a number of announcements, Microsoft has cut the price of Microsoft Works for Windows, reported better than expected shipments of Microsoft Access in Japan, and announced strong sales of a book about Microsoft's object linking and embedding (OLE) technology.

The company has reduced the suggested retail price of its Works 3.0 for Windows program from \$199 to \$139. Works for Windows, which includes word processing, spreadsheet, database and communications capabilities, has been shipping since November.

At an initial special introductory price of \$89, Microsoft said sales have far exceeded expectations, with nearly four times the number of packages shipping than in the comparable period last year. Works is available for DOS, Windows, multimedia PCs, and Macintosh platforms.

**** NEC and Toshiba Plan Price Cuts ****

Word has it that electronics makers NEC Corp. and Toshiba Corp. are planning major cost-cutting program in April to buoy profitability. NEC plans to halve production costs for PCs, telecommunications equipment and other mainstay products by the end of 1995. Meanwhile, Toshiba says it will double per-head productivity in its semiconductor division in a three-year program ending March 1997.

**** Lotus 1-2-3 For Windows Multimedia Edition Ships ****

Lotus Development Corp. says it has begun shipping the CD-ROM-based Lotus 1-2-3 Release 4 for Windows: Multimedia Edition, the newest version of its Windows spreadsheet.

Lotus 1-2-3 Release 4 for Windows: Multimedia Edition combines 1-2-3 Release 4 for Windows with 28 animated learning and educational movies, proofreading technologies and tools for developing customized help

sessions.

Lotus 1-2-3 Release 4 for Windows: Multimedia Edition costs \$495. Upgrades from all other releases of 1-2-3 and from competitive spreadsheets are available for \$129.

**** HP Offers Upgraded Palmtop PC ****

Hewlett-Packard Co. this week announced that it has doubled the memory of its popular HP 100LX palmtop PC and lowered the price of its 1MB version to \$549.

The enhanced palmtop, the HP 100LX-2MB, features 2MB of RAM to accommodate larger data files and lengthy electronic-mail correspondence. It is priced at \$799 and scheduled for release in mid-February.

From Feb. 1 through July 1, HP 100LX users can upgrade their units to 2MB of RAM for \$297.

**** Novell Releases Novell DOS 7 ****

Novell Inc. says it's now shipping Novell DOS 7, a new version of its PC operating system.

The software publisher says its product enhances the core functionality of DOS by providing fully integrated NetWare client support, peer-to-peer networking, desktop network management, network installation, Stacker disk compression, pre-emptive DOS multitasking, enhanced memory management and desktop security. Novell DOS 7 is a major upgrade to DR DOS 6.0.

According to Novell, Novell DOS 7 is fully compatible with Windows 3.x and Windows for Workgroups (WFW) 3.1 and 3.11.

Novell DOS 7 is available now for \$99. Novell customers using DR DOS or the NetWare Lite/DR DOS bundle can take advantage of a 90-day upgrade price of \$39.95.

**** Toshiba Ships New Notebook ****

Toshiba America Information Systems Inc. has begun shipping its Satellite T1910 series of notebook computers. The T1910 has an estimated street range of \$1,599 to \$1,699, depending upon configuration and bundle purchased.

******* General Mac News *******

**** Microsoft Offers Upgrades to Microsoft Mail for Appletalk ****

Microsoft this week announced its shipping a set of administrative utilities with Microsoft Mail version 3.1 for Appletalk networks. Microsoft says the utilities provide administrators with new methods of maintaining user directories and monitoring the electronic mail (e-mail) system.

The upgrade is available at no cost to all current users of Microsoft Mail 3.1 for Appletalk and will also be included in the new retail version of the product. Version 3.1 allows an e-mail administrator to run an out of office server that will automatically reply to or forward any mail sent to a user who is away from the office. Better prediction of the minimum amount of memory required by the server, one-command reset and tracking of server statistics, on-command network scanning, viewing of queued messages by date or size, and return of queued messages to their senders is also provided.

**** Apple to Seek Mac Clone Makers ****

According to press reports, Apple Corp., is seeking to sign up PC manufacturers to produce clones of the Macintosh computer line.

If true, it would not be the first time that a hardware manufacturer has abandoned, at least partially, the production of hardware in favor of the software. Next did it not too recently with the divestment of its Next hardware platform in order to concentrate on the more cost-effective production and marketing of the NextStep object-oriented operating system and development environment.

Many hardware vendors are abandoning the manufacturing of PCs in favor of setting up original equipment manufacturing (OEM) agreements with individual peripheral suppliers in order to cut production costs.

A report today quoted an Apple source as saying an agreement with at least one PC clone maker involving the manufacture of Macintosh computers was expected by the end of the year.

If true, the decision to get, even partly, out of direct manufacturing is simply a reflection of a larger trend that has been occurring over the last few years that involves the price reductions of hardware and the reduction of the PC platform to a commodity market. As a result, profit-margins for PC manufacturers have been stripped to the bone, forcing them to seek add value-added services such as free technical support in order to win sales.

Some observers contend that, Apple too, may finally be realizing the benefits of having companies clone the Macintosh, which would free company resources up to concentrate on the development of new products and the marketing of software and operating systems.

**** Apple Produces One-Millionth Powerbook ****

Apple Computer's one-millionth Powerbook computer rolled off the assembly line recently, but don't rush to your local retailer to buy it.

Apple spokesperson Jeanne Brown said that the Powerbook 165 won't be shipped, although initially it was packed and ready to go. "We've decided to keep it here," said Brown.

Apple began manufacturing PC boards at the former Data General plant near Colorado Springs, Colorado in October 1991 and the first completed system was built in January 1992. The facility employs about 1,000 employees. The plant, which runs three shifts each work day, averages about 3,000 finished computers daily. That's mixed equally between

Powerbooks and Quadra 610 and 650 desktop models.

**** Kodak Adopts Apple Color Management Standard ****

Apple Computer Inc. reports that Eastman Kodak Co. has adopted Apple's ColorSync Device Profile Format as a standard for Kodak's color management products.

The ColorSync Device Profile Format is a multi-platform, device-independent description of any color peripheral, such as a scanner, monitor or printer. It allows the peripheral's color capabilities to be accessed by Macintosh, UNIX and Windows-based systems.

Apple adds that it has joined with Kodak to form a ColorSync Profile Format steering committee comprised of major operating systems vendors and color matching modules suppliers.

"This agreement between Apple and Kodak lays the groundwork for building a standard for an industry-wide color management," says Jerry Murch, director of imaging software for Apple's imaging and publishing division.

Apple introduced ColorSync in May 1992. The company says it's currently working with industry members to develop the specifications for ColorSync 2.0. The new release is due out this fall.

**** PowerPC Chip Upgrades Planned ****

Apple Computer Inc. plans to offer upgrades based on the PowerPC microprocessor for many of its entry-level PCs. Reports say the upgrades will be available for systems such as the Macintosh LC 520, 550, 575 and the Performa 550. Apple officials also said the firm plans to make future upgrades available for LC 475, Quadra 605 and Performa 475/76 product lines.

The PowerPC chip was developed by Apple working with IBM and Motorola.

**** Aldus Buys Desktop Video Line ****

For undisclosed terms, software publisher Aldus Corp. has bought a line of desktop video software products from the former desktop division of Digital F/X, Inc. of Mountain View, Calif.

In a statement from Seattle, Aldus said that among the acquired products were a program code-named Hitchcock, a yet-unreleased non-linear video editing software solution for the Apple Macintosh, and TitleSoft (also unreleased) a Macintosh-based PostScript rendering and video title generation software program.

**** Clarisworks 2.1 For Macintosh Ships ****

Claris Corp. reports that ClarisWorks 2.1 for Macintosh is shipping and now available at its authorized resellers.

The updated version of the integrated application supports PowerTalk,

What is Cairo? How does Chicago compare to Cairo?

Cairo is the code name for a development project that will produce the successor to Windows NT. Chicago and Cairo will produce complementary products that will continue to provide a consistent user interface and programming environment across the entire range of PC hardware platforms.

Why does Microsoft have multiple Windows operating system products?

Wouldn't it be simpler to just have one product? Does that mean ISVs have to decide between different operating system products when writing applications? There are two distinct design points for operating systems platforms. One is centered on the mainstream system, and the other is centered on the high-end system. It is not possible to have one operating system implementation that fully exploits the broad range of hardware available today. At the low end (currently represented by products such as the HP Omnibook and entry-level desktop machines), the primary design goal is to keep the operating system small and fast and to keep usage of machine resources to a minimum. At the high end (for example, a dual-processor technical workstation), the product would need to fully support multiprocessing and advanced 3-D graphics as well as be capable of running technical applications that use maximum machine and system resources.

Over time, low-end machines will become more powerful, and over time, some of today's high-end features will migrate to the low end. In addition, some technical innovations will appear on the mainstream Windows system first, largely because of the timing of product releases, and because some features are focused on end users and ease of use. The Win32 API assures developers that, whichever system they target today, their applications will be able to run in the future as the platform evolves. Thus, while Chicago and Cairo may leapfrog one another with some features, depending on release cycles e.g., Chicago will sport the next major advance in the user interface, with Cairo inheriting it in its release a few months later the general principle over time is that the high-end product will be a superset of the functionality offered in the mainstream product. Any deviations from this principle are temporary, due to variations in the product release schedules. For ISVs and for development purposes, however, Microsoft has just one Windows platform, defined by the Windows-based 32-bit API, Win32. By following a few simple guidelines, ISVs can write a single application (executable) that runs on the Windows operating system product family. If they wish, ISVs can target specific operating system products because the functionality they provide is important to their particular application, but that is not a requirement.

This situation is very much like the Intel microprocessor product line. At any point in time, the Intel product line offers multiple products targeted toward different PC products, ranging from the 80386SL for low-end portable products to the Pentium microprocessor for high-end workstations and application servers. What defines those products is the Intel instruction set, which enables applications to run on all Intel chips, even though the underlying implementation at the transistor level may be very different across the Intel product line. There are also some instructions offered on the Pentium chip that are not on the 80386SL, but ISVs would have to go out of their way to make their products run on only Pentium. And over time, Pentium will become more mainstream, just as the 80486 has become the mainstream microprocessor today, and technologies developed at the low end, such as System Management Mode, will be

implemented on the high end as well.

When will Chicago ship? When will Cairo ship?

Chicago is scheduled to ship in the second half of 1994. Cairo is scheduled to be released in the first half of 1995.

What is Daytona? When will it ship?

Daytona is an interim release of Windows NT that is scheduled to ship this spring.

Major new releases of operating system products have in the past been significantly delayed. How will you make your projected shipment date for Chicago? Chicago will be released when customers tell us it is ready. The way to make shipment dates is to hit your intermediate milestones. To date, Chicago has been making its milestones with the release of the first Preliminary Developer's Kit (PDK) in August and the second PDK in December. Feedback from beta releases beginning in March will tell us more precisely when in the second half of 1994 Chicago will ship.

If Chicago ships before Cairo, how will users of Windows NT obtain the new functionality in Chicago?

Any new functionality offered in Chicago will be made available to customers of Windows NT through the release of the Cairo product.

What are the key benefits and features of Chicago? What features will Chicago not have?

For customers, Chicago will present a major step forward in functionality on mainstream desktop platforms by providing a system that is easy to use, offers responsive multitasking performance, and provides a great platform for communications. Ease of use will be delivered through the Plug and Play architecture and an improved, intuitive user interface. Chicago will be a complete, integrated protect-mode operating system that does not require or use a separate version of MS-DOS, implements the Win32 API, and provides pre-emptive multitasking and multiple threads of execution for 32-bit applications. The communications capabilities of Windows will be enhanced with integrated, high-performance networking, built-in messaging, and features such as Remote Network Access and File Synchronization designed for mobile and remote computer users.

Chicago will also be a hassle-free upgrade for the current installed base of Windows-based users. Chicago will be compatible with most current applications and drivers for MS-DOS and Windows, and will provide an easy transition to the new user interface features. The applications performance of Chicago will meet or exceed the performance of Windows 3.1 on 80386 systems with 4MB of RAM running the same applications. For systems with more memory, performance will be significantly improved over Windows 3.1. The setup program will enable customers to uninstall Chicago, assuring customers a way to remove it if they are in any way unhappy with it, and will provide tools for system administrators to customize the configuration of Chicago.

Chicago will not be processor independent, nor will it support symmetric multiprocessing systems, provide C2-level security, or provide full Unicode support. These features cannot be delivered on the

mainstream platform in the near future while still meeting the performance and resource targets necessary to create a compelling upgrade for the huge installed base of users of the Windows operating system. If these features are important to a customer, Windows NT is the product to deploy.

What different packages will you have for Chicago?

Decisions about packaging the different technologies being developed as part of the Chicago project will be made later in the development cycle and will be based on customer and business needs. One option is to provide a base Chicago package with some add-on packages that deliver functionality required by specific market segments. This is much like the situation today in which the user of Windows 3.1 can upgrade to Windows for Workgroups by acquiring the add-on package that adds the 32-bit file system and 32-bit networking enhancements to Windows.

Since the term Chicago is a code name, what will you call the product(s) that you will eventually release?

Decisions about names will be made after we decide on a packaging plan.

What will happen to the MS-DOS product line?

Microsoft will continue to enhance MS-DOS as long as customers require it. Future versions will be derived from the protected-mode technology developed in the Chicago project. Current MS-DOS based applications and drivers will continue to be compatible with new versions of MS-DOS.

Your performance goals on 4MB platforms sound very ambitious, considering all the functionality you're adding to Chicago. How will you achieve those goals?

Chicago will implement new working set management technologies that will optimize the use of memory on low-configuration systems. The networking, disk and paging caches will be fully integrated. Protect-mode device drivers will be dynamically loadable, to ensure that only the drivers that are immediately needed are consuming memory. More components of the base operating system will be pageable. Great attention will be paid to effective page tuning, including hand-tuning source code.

Will Chicago run my current Windows-based applications? How about MS-DOS based applications?

Chicago will run most of the current applications for Windows and MS-DOS, as well as new applications written to the Win32 API. Some classes of applications will need to be revised to be compatible with Chicago, such as shell-replacement utilities and file-management utilities. Chicago's new shell provides a complete set of services that is tightly integrated with the operating system components. Shell programs will need to do more than simply replace components such as Program Manager or File Manager. And file-management utility vendors will want to revise their applications to take advantage of the Long File Name feature that Chicago offers. Microsoft is working closely with shell-replacement and file-utility vendors to enable them to revise their products to add value to and be compatible with Chicago.

Will I have to get new device drivers to use my current devices with Chicago?

Chicago supports current real-mode device drivers as well as new 32-bit protected mode device drivers. As a result, customers will be able to use their current devices either with their current device drivers, or with new device drivers made available with Chicago. Performance and functionality can be improved if the user installs the new Chicago drivers. Microsoft is making it easier for device manufacturers to deliver new drivers for common devices by defining a more layered, modular device driver architecture. For displays, printers and modems, Microsoft will deliver universal drivers. These drivers will implement common device functionality and expose an interface for device manufacturers to create minidrivers that implement the features specific to their devices. This approach was very successful with printers for Windows 3.1, resulting in rapid availability of fast, high-quality drivers for a wide range of printers.

Will my current applications perform as well on Chicago as they do on Windows 3.1 today?

For Chicago to be a compelling upgrade, Windows-based users must experience a level of performance after installing Chicago that meets or exceeds the performance they currently experience running an identical set of tasks on Windows 3.1. Because a large portion of the installed base of users of Windows today have 4MB systems, Chicago must meet its performance goals on 4MB systems. On systems with more than 4MB of RAM, Chicago will offer significantly improved performance. Understand, however, that there are user and application scenarios today that already use more than 4MB. Users who already require more than 4MB will continue to require more than 4MB with Chicago and if they are using more than 4MB, they should see improved performance. But they won't get away with using less memory in the future than they do today. It's an important distinction to maintain.

You say Chicago will have a different user interface than Windows and Windows NT. When will that user interface be reflected in the beta versions of Chicago?

The new user interface will be delivered with the first beta of Chicago, scheduled for March 1994.

Won't a new user interface mean a lot of retraining for current Windows-based users? Will the advantages of the new user interface be worth the retraining costs? The user interface being developed for Chicago will offer dramatic gains in ease of learning and ease of use for the broad range of people using PCs today. Instead of mastering different kinds of tools to work with different resources on their computers, users of Chicago will be able to browse for and access all resources in a consistent fashion with a single tool. This will be much easier than learning separate applications such as Program Manager, File Manager, Print Manager, Control Panel, etc. as users of Windows must do today. A system toolbar that is always accessible will make it much easier to start and switch between full-screen tasks. The implementation of OLE 2.0, with its focus on the user's document rather than on the tool used to create it, and the direct manipulation of data through drag and drop in the user interface, will make working with documents easier and more intuitive.

Current users of Windows will be immediately productive with Chicago and be able to learn the new features of the user interface as they work. Chicago's smart setup technology will use the current system settings to present an initial configuration that is familiar for the current Windows-based user. And for corporate customers and individuals who may not want to make any user interface changes initially, Chicago will enable them to continue running their current Program Manager and File Manager configurations.

What is Plug and Play? What benefits does Plug and Play provide?

Plug and Play is a technology jointly developed by PC product vendors that will dramatically improve the integration of PC hardware and software. It allows a PC to adapt itself dynamically to its environment; devices can be plugged into or unplugged from a machine, without the user having to do anything special the machine just works. Plug and Play is a general framework that advances that state of the PC architecture by defining how the software communicates with any device connected to the PC. Plug and Play technology enables installation and configuration of add-on devices without user intervention. Plug and Play will make it possible for a consumer to turn a standard desktop system into a great multimedia machine by just plugging in a Plug and Play sound card and CD-ROM, turning on the system, and playing a video clip. Plug and Play can enable new system designs that can be dynamically reconfigured.

For example, imagine a docking station that enables you to remove the portable system while it is still running so that you can take it to a meeting, and the system automatically reconfigures to work with a lower-resolution display and adjusts for the absence of the network card and large disk drive. Or imagine an IR-enabled subnotebook that automatically recognizes, installs and configures an IR-enabled printer when you walk into the room, so your applications are ready to print to that printer. Plug and Play can also save development and support costs for the product manufacturer.

Today, as many as 50 percent of support calls received by operating system and device manufacturers are related to installation and configuration of devices. With Plug and Play, device driver development is simplified because device manufacturers can write one driver that works across multiple bus types using the Universal Driver Model specified by the Plug and Play architecture. Today, device manufacturers have to include bus-specific code in each of their drivers. With Plug and Play, specific bus configuration data is contained in bus drivers. Also, operating system pre-installation and configuration are simplified for OEMs because Plug and Play devices will automatically install and configure during setup.

What changes to current hardware and software are required to make Plug and Play a reality? How will vendors figure out how to develop new devices with Plug and Play capability?

First, Plug and Play is compatible with existing systems, so nothing breaks because of Plug and Play. Plug and Play devices can be brought out over time in fact, this is already occurring and will work with existing systems. To deliver all of the above benefits requires changes to devices and drivers, the BIOS, and the operating system. Three fundamental capabilities are required for a system to provide Plug and Play functionality:

A unique identifier for every device on the system

A procedure for the BIOS and operating system to install and configure that device

A mechanism for the system and applications to recognize that a configuration change has occurred while the system is running All the changes to devices and drivers, the BIOS and the operating system are defined by a series of specifications for Plug and Play architecture. The Plug and Play architecture is an open, flexible and cost-effective framework for designing Plug and Play products.

The Plug and Play architecture was jointly developed by a working group of leading vendors, who reviewed design proposals with hundreds of companies in the industry at conferences and through online forums. Plug and Play can be implemented by any operating system vendor and any hardware manufacturer. In addition to Microsoft, IBM has announced support for Plug and Play in OS/2. The Plug and Play architecture is

flexible, because it provides a framework that works on multiple types of bus architectures (ISA, SCSI, PCMCIA, VL, PCI, etc.), and it is extensible to future bus designs.

The Plug and Play architecture is also cost-effective, because it requires little or no incremental cost for vendors to implement in their products.

Won't it take a long time for these changes to be reflected in products?

Acceptance of the Plug and Play architecture is widespread, as seen by the rapid progress the industry is making in delivering Plug and Play specifications and products. Specifications have already been released for ISA, SCSI and PCMCIA devices, and the Plug and Play BIOS. Additional specifications are in process, including PCI, ECP, VL, EISA, Micro Channel, and Access. The first Plug and Play devices were demonstrated at COMDEX/Fall 1993, representing a wide range of companies and products. Intel has released development kits that enable device and system vendors to deliver improved configuration capabilities for ISA and PCI systems running with Windows 3.1 in a manner that will provide compatibility with future Windows operating systems. Fully Plug and Play-capable systems (including all Plug and Play devices and a Plug and Play BIOS) will be available in the first half of 1994. These systems will be able to offer complete Plug and Play functionality when combined with Chicago.

I've heard that Chicago implements a 32-bit API. Is that API different from the 32-bit API implemented on Windows NT?

There is only one 32-bit Windows API, called Win32, with ISVs able to use the API set to provide different levels of functionality for Windows 3.1, Chicago and Windows NT. Chicago implements a large subset of the functionality of the Win32 API offered on Windows NT, and extends the Win32 API in some areas. These extensions will be delivered on Windows NT as soon as possible after the release of Chicago.

If there are different implementations of the Win32 API available on different products in the Microsoft operating system product line, does that mean ISVs will have to have separate versions of their applications for Windows and Windows NT?

No. By following some simple guidelines, ISVs can develop a single

executable file that runs on Windows 3.x, Chicago and Windows NT. At the recent Professional Developers' Conference, we provided in-depth technical sessions on the proper way to design applications to do so, supplied tools in the SDK to help make such development easier, and showed several applications that ran across the entire Windows family.

When will applications be available that exploit Chicago? Won't that take a long time?

ISVs who are developing 32-bit applications for Windows 3.1 and Windows NT using the Win32 API and the guidelines we have provided will have applications that are able to run on Chicago immediately. There are already more than 250 Win32 applications available today, and more coming quickly. Other ISVs will wait until Chicago ships to provide their 32-bit applications; usually those applications start coming on-line about 90 days after the operating system ships. Chicago also will support today's 16-bit applications, so users can move to Chicago immediately and upgrade their applications as they become available. Chicago represents a major market opportunity for ISVs. Chicago will ship on almost all OEM systems soon after it is released, and it will be acquired as an upgrade by a substantial portion of the Windows installed base (the installed base will probably number more than 50 million by mid-1994). Customers who purchase new systems and upgrade their operating systems are the most active purchasers of new software applications. As a result, ISVs have a very significant business incentive to release versions of their applications that exploit Chicago.

I've heard Chicago described as a 32-bit operating system, yet I've also heard that portions of Chicago are implemented with 16-bit code. Are both these statements correct?

Chicago will provide a 32-bit platform for applications by implementing the Win32 API on a complete, protect-mode operating system. Chicago will also run well on mainstream Windows platforms (which for a large portion of the Windows installed base is a 4MB 80386 system), and Chicago will be compatible with applications and drivers for MS-DOS and Windows. These requirements must be met if Chicago is to meet customer needs and provide the volume to make ISVs successful.

These requirements have driven all the design decisions for Chicago. The resulting design deploys 32-bit code wherever it improves performance without sacrificing application compatibility. The design retains existing 16-bit code where it is required to maintain compatibility or where size is a critical issue but has minimal impact on performance. All of the I/O subsystems and device drivers in Chicago, such as networking and file systems, are fully 32-bit as are all the memory management and scheduling components (the kernel and virtual memory manager). Many functions provided by the Graphics Device Interface (GDI) have been moved to 32-bit code, including the spooler and printing subsystem, the rasterizer, and the drawing operations performed by the graphics engine. Much of the window management code (user) remains 16-bit to retain application compatibility.

If portions of Chicago still remain 16-bit, what happens when a 32-bit application makes a function call that is implemented by the 16-bit Chicago component? Doesn't this slow down 32-bit applications on Chicago relative to 16-bit applications? When Win32-based applications call a 32-bit API that is implemented by a 16-bit component of the system, the function call is translated to its 16-bit equivalent for processing by the system. This translation process is referred to as

thunking. Although there is some overhead associated with a thunking operation, the Chicago thunk layer is very efficient.

That overhead will be more than offset by the improved efficiency of the linear memory addressing scheme used by Win32-based applications. The overall impact of some thunking code is quite modest vs. all the other work the application and operating system have to do.

For end users, perceptions of application performance are based on a combination of the efficiency of the application when executing its own code and the efficiency of the operating system code when the application has called an operating system service. On Chicago systems with adequate memory, end users will experience gains in system efficiency when running 16-bit applications, and they will experience gains in both system and application efficiency when running 32-bit applications.

Will I need new networking software to connect Chicago to my network server?

Customers will require Chicago to connect to their network servers when Chicago is installed, and to offer high-performance, reliable networking functionality. To meet this requirement, Chicago will continue to run existing real-mode networking components. However, we expect customers to want to upgrade to the new 32-bit networking components provided by Chicago. Chicago will enhance the open, flexible, high-performance 32-bit networking architecture offered today with Windows for Workgroups 3.11 that enables customers to mix and match networking components. Chicago will support NDIS 2.0, NDIS 3.0 and ODI drivers, and will provide 32-bit NetBEUI, IPX/SPX and TCP/IP protocols. Redirectors for SMB and NCP-based networks will be included. In addition, Chicago's new multiple-provider interface will make it possible for the user to view, browse and connect to multiple networks in a consistent fashion.

What about NetWare? Are you working with Novell on NetWare support?

Customers will require high-performance, reliable NetWare support the day Chicago is released. To meet that requirement, Microsoft is developing a 32-bit NCP Redirector that is seamlessly integrated with the Chicago user interface, and is encouraging Novell to do the same. Microsoft will offer Novell access to information and assistance to write a Chicago redirector. Novell engineers attended the Win32 Professional Developers' Conference and have been provided access to the Preliminary Developer's Kit for Chicago. With this approach, customers should be able to choose from multiple sources for reliable, high-performance NetWare connectivity software when Chicago is released.

Will there be a Chicago server?

No, not in the sense of a server product such as Windows NT Advanced Server. Chicago will continue to improve upon the peer server capabilities offered in Windows for Workgroups by offering additional features for remote installation, control and administration. These features will make Chicago an even better product for an easy-to-use file and print-sharing LAN that is ideally suited as a small-business, small-department or remote office network. Similarly, Windows NT offers peer services as well for the high-end desktop. But for most server applications, and in the sense that most people ask about a server product, Windows NT Advanced Server is the Microsoft server product.

I keep hearing rumors that you are working on a portable version of Chicago. Is this true?

No, we are not working on a portable version of Chicago. Windows NT is our portable operating system, and it's already available on high-end Intel, MIPS, Alpha and Clipper machines; it will be available on the PowerPC by mid-1994 and on other high-end platforms over time. There is no reason to make Chicago portable. Chicago is optimized for Intel processors, and much of its internal code is Intel assembler, which puts Chicago at the heart of today's low-end and mainstream line. Portability is important for the new generation of high-powered Intel and RISC machines, on which Windows NT runs and for which Windows NT has been optimized. As these new high-end machines become more mainstream, which will happen over time, Windows NT will already offer the power, security, and reliability that users will demand to exploit these new machines.

What will Chicago do to make the client operating system more manageable?

A primary goal for the Chicago project is to make Windows less expensive to deploy in a corporation. Chicago will include some specific features and enabling technologies that will make it easier for system administrators to install, configure, monitor, maintain and troubleshoot their Windows-based desktops.

Chicago can be set up from a network server and at the desktop can be configured at the desktop to run locally or across the network. In each case, the administrator can establish a specific configuration for the installation, selecting from a flexible array of setup configuration options. Chicago desktops require only a floppy drive to start up, and paging of components to a swapfile on the network can be disabled to minimize network traffic.

Once Chicago is installed, administrators will be able to centrally configure desktop settings such as file and printer sharing, network access, and passwords. They can remotely monitor Chicago desktops with peer services running to determine what resources are shared, what connections have been made, and what files are being used. Chicago enhances the security provided by Windows for Workgroups to include user-level security. To enable users to access their personal groups, applications, and data from any system on the network, Chicago will provide user profiles. Chicago will also provide the infrastructure for the delivery of enhanced desktop management services by third parties. A backup agent will be included with Chicago to enable administrators to back up desktop data to a network server. To integrate the desktop into SNMP-based enterprise management systems, Chicago will also include a Systems Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent and a Management Information Base (MIB) for a number of system resources. The system registry and Plug and Play architecture provide a rich store of data about the software and hardware configuration on the desktop, and this information can be accessed by system management software using a DCE-compliant Remote Procedure Call (RPC) mechanism.

What improvements will Chicago offer for people who use a mobile or remote computer?

Chicago will provide great support for mobile form-factor devices and will make it easy for end users to access the resources of their desktop systems when they are away from their offices. The implementation of Plug and Play in Chicago will support insertion and

removal of devices such as PCMCIA cards while the operating system is running. It will also support automatic reconfiguration of dockable computers when they are inserted or removed from the docking station, without rebooting the system. An enhanced version of Advanced Power Management will further extend battery life. The services provided by Windows for Pen Computing will be enhanced and incorporated into Chicago, including basic inking and rendering support.

A special focus will be on remote connectivity. Any Chicago-based machine will be able to serve as a Remote Access dial-up server or a remote client for Windows NT Advanced Server, Novell NetWare servers or Chicago peer servers. The same technology will be used for serial cable and infrared connections between PCs. The Remote Access architecture will be integrated with the Chicago networking architecture by using the same network protocols and advanced security features. Remote Access will support wireless devices and allow application developers to make their applications slow-link aware to improve the user experience when working on a remote system via modem rather than on a high-bandwidth network. Furthermore, Chicago will provide a simple form of file synchronization and APIs for applications to access the file synchronization services to merge changes when both the source document and copy have been modified. Remote e-mail and Microsoft at Work fax capability will be included, as in Windows for Workgroups 3.11 today.

Will the file synchronization feature in Chicago provide document management capabilities?

Chicago's file synchronization services are optimized for the needs of the mobile computer user who wants to take copies of documents to a remote location and have them be automatically synchronized with the source documents. It is not intended as a replacement for sophisticated document management systems.

Chicago's file synchronization allows customers to identify files that they want to stay up to date, to change those files, and to have the files automatically updated when the source file is available to the system. The update is performed by replacing the source file with the modified copy at the discretion of the user. If an application writes a merge-handler, then specific data within the modified and source copies of a file can be merged, to create a new updated copy.

You say you have one API with Win32. Does that mean there will also be just one Windows SDK?

Yes, there will be one Win32 SDK that developers can use to develop 32-bit applications for Windows 3.1, Chicago and Windows NT. In fact, we recently announced a new subscription service, the Microsoft Developer Network Level II that provides developers with not only the Win32 toolkit, but every system toolkit we offer, on a single CD, updated quarterly.

What benefits does Chicago offer to developers? What are you doing to make developing Windows-based applications easier?

The Microsoft Visual Basic programming system has dramatically streamlined and simplified the development of Windows-based applications, and it will be enhanced to support the development of 32-bit applications for Chicago. Microsoft also is enhancing its Visual C++ development system and Microsoft Foundation Class tools.

by Frank Sereno

Yearn2Learn Peanuts by Image Smith is an educational game intended for children ages 3 to 10 years. It is available for 256 color Macintosh computers with 4 megs of RAM and 11 megs of free hard disk space, and for IBM compatible computers with a 386 or higher CPU running Windows 3.1, 4 megs of RAM, a 640 by 480 display, a Windows compatible sound card and 12 megs of free of hard disk space.

Installation is very simple on both machines. On the Mac, insert DISK 1 in the disk drive and click on the displayed install icon. For Windows, insert Disk 1 in the drive and use either the File Manager or Progman to run SETUP.EXE, then the installation will prompt for the other disks as needed. To start Yearn2Learn Peanuts, double-click on the Snoopy icon. The program will start with a screen featuring all the lovable Peanuts characters with the bouncy "Linus and Lucy Theme" playing in the background. Then the home screen will appear featuring 5 different pictures of Snoopy representing 5 different activities. The activities are Comic Strips, Flying Ace Games, Coloring Book, Geography Games and Math Games.

Comic Strips is an activity teaching basic reading skills. Each strip consists of several connected frames. Many of the frames have narrated text that is highlighted as each word is spoken. Individual words can be heard again by clicking on them. For fun, each frame has hidden "hot spots" that the child may find by clicking the mouse on various objects. If the child finds a hot spot, then a small and humorous animation sequence will be shown. At the end of the strip, the child will be shown a graph showing the percentage of hot spots found in that strip. This game is intended for younger users.

Flying Ace Games provides two different games to build hand-eye coordination, memory and mouse skills. The first game is the Sound Game which allows the child to click on different objects and to learn the sounds associated with them. The second game is Ace I in which the child is to guide Snoopy and his doghouse through a sky filled with various obstacles. The child is to place the mouse pointer on Snoopy and by holding the mouse button down and then moving the mouse to guide Snoopy. The program manual states that Snoopy can crash if he runs into other objects but on my system he floats on to the finish line to a rousing chorus of cheers every time. These two games are suitable for younger children.

The Coloring Book allows the child to color 10 different black and white Peanuts comics plus there is a blank "page" so a personal masterpiece can be created. Camera buttons allow 4 pictures of each comic to be saved for later editing or viewing. The program has 5 crayons and 5 erasers of varying sizes. The smaller crayons and erasers are used for the finer, detailed work. The outlines of the original comics cannot be erased. They may disappear when an eraser is passed over them but they will reappear momentarily. The child has a choice of 13 different colors, which is very limiting. I also found that it takes a great deal of hand-eye coordination to color in all the pixels on the comics. It also takes a great deal of time to get a comic colored properly. A younger child may become frustrated with this interface and in these cases I recommend the click and fill paint packages for them.

Geography Games break the Continental United States into 4 regions

for the purpose of making puzzles. In the Easy game, the child simply clicks and drags the jumbled states to their proper position on the regional map. In the Hard game, once the state has been properly positioned the child will then have to click on its name. If the wrong name is chosen, he will hear, "Uh huh," and have to choose until he finds the correct name which will then be pronounced. When the map is finished, the player will get a cheer and see Snoopy flying Old Glory. Now the gameplay is fine as it teaches mouse skills and the states of our nation, but I do not believe slang belongs in educational software. It would have been just as easy to have digitized someone saying "That is incorrect, please try again."

The last set of activities is the three Math Games. The Easy game asks the child to do simple counting, addition and subtraction of Woodstock and his feathered friends. The game itself seems quite good but I feel the audio feedback for a wrong answer is terrible. Upon giving an incorrect answer, the child is greeted with "Awww, too bad. Bummer, man." These slang expressions are not positive feedback and are not conducive to a good learning experience. The Medium game involves Snoopy and Woodstock bowling. The child must type in how many pins have been knocked down from the number of pins remaining upright and then adding the totals of Snoopy's and Woodstock's rolls. This is an excellent concept but once again the audio feedback disappoints me. Again wrong answers are greeted with "Awww, too bad. Bummer, man" and now correct answers to the Woodstock's rolls beget "Way cool!" Gag me with a spoon! The final Math Game is the Hard Game and it features Linus stacking pumpkins on a scale. There are three different sizes of pumpkins and the weights are shown on a chart. The player must assign the proper weight to each pumpkin and then add the weight of the pumpkins to give the correct answer. The weights of the different sizes of pumpkins varies from question to question. This is an excellent learning concept.

Technical support from Image Smith appears to be quite excellent. I had difficulty getting Peanuts to run on my 386-40 with a Stealth Vram video card so I installed it on my 486DX2-66 machine with a Cirrus VLB video card. It worked fine on the second system so I fired off a fax to the support team. It took them about 6 working days to get back to me with a solution to get the program running on my children's computer. Support is via a toll-call to the west coast.

I feel that most of the activities in the Peanuts package are very good except for the poor choices of slang expressions for audio feedback. This may not bother older children, but I think it would tend to discourage many of the younger children for whom this product was intended. I know that my five year-old son Jeremy had little enthusiasm for the Easy Math Game after hearing "Awww, too bad. Bummer, man" several times. Maybe if other phrases were used instead of hearing the same one over and over it would be less of an annoyance to me. Parents, if you are not concerned with the use of slang then this product is a good buy.

You can reach Image Smith by phone at 415-292-3542 or via fax at 415-346-0124. Or if you wish to write them:

Image Smith, Inc.
1313 West Sepulveda Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501

In last week's article, I mentioned that I had purchased some

WORDPERFECT CORPORATION BECOMES AN
ECONOMIC PARTNER
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

WordPerfect Corporation Markets and Distributes
Quebec-originated Products

Toronto * Jan. 31, 1994 * WordPerfect Corporation today announced it has obtained Economic Partnership with the Government of Quebec. This mutually beneficial partnership requires that WordPerfect Corporation reinvest a portion of the company's revenues from Quebec back into the province and ensures that WordPerfect Corporation products will be given priority consideration when government agencies purchase software.

"WordPerfect Corporation is very pleased to be the first major software vendor to become an Economic Partner with the Government of Quebec," said Stan Weiss, general manager, WordPerfect Canada. "This partnership will benefit the Province of Quebec, WordPerfect Corporation and users of WordPerfect Corporation products."

"Economic partnership with the Government of Quebec means development of an ongoing relationship," said Micheline Fortin, director of information technology at Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Science and Technology. "Government and industry must cultivate a constructive dialogue for mutual benefit. WordPerfect Corporation's aggressive actions are exemplary and demonstrate the corporation's high commitment to the Quebec market."

WordPerfect Corporation's licensing of products created by Quebec-based Tune 1000 is one example of how the Utah-based company is benefiting the Quebec market. This relationship combines Tune 1000's creative development with WordPerfect Corporation's worldwide strengths in marketing and distribution.

"WordPerfect Corporation realized the great technologies and products offered by Tune 1000," said Tom Rhoton, director of Canadian government sales. "By licensing Tune 1000's products, we'll keep the technology in Quebec, but we'll market their products throughout the world."

WordPerfect Corporation serves as Tune 1000's publisher, providing worldwide marketing, distribution and sales. The products created by Tune 1000 to be licensed by WordPerfect Corporation are Kap'n Karaoke, a computerized sing-a-long product for children, and the Wallobee Jack series, interactive educational cartoons on CD-ROM. Both products are marketed under the WordPerfect Main Street consumer products line.

WordPerfect Corporation has also announced the establishment of a Quebec-based customer service center.

"WordPerfect Corporation has always provided its customers with the industry's best customer service," said Weiss. "We are committed to providing outstanding support offerings to our French-speaking Canadian

customers. We realize this support must be offered from a Quebec-based customer service center." The service center, to be located in the Province of Quebec, will be established as quickly as possible during 1994. WordPerfect Corporation is currently conducting an analysis to determine the best location for the service center.

WordPerfect Corporation develops best-of-class software in three primary categories: business applications, workgroup applications and consumer products. Among the company's award-winning products are the world's all-time best-selling word processor, WordPerfect, as well as WordPerfect Office, WordPerfect InForms, WordPerfect Presentations and Grammatik.

Headquartered in Orem, Utah, WordPerfect Corporation is represented throughout the world by 58 international affiliates serving 117 countries with products in 28 languages. The company is widely recognized for its multilingual and cross-platform software solutions, and is the industry's premier provider of customer support.

WORDPERFECT CORPORATION ESTABLISHES WORDPERFECT CANADA

Canada Is WordPerfect Corporation's Second
Largest International Market by Sales Volume

TORONTO * Jan. 31, 1994 * WordPerfect Corporation today announced the establishment of WordPerfect Canada, an independent profit center. Canada is WordPerfect Corporation's second largest international market by sales volume, and WordPerfect Corporation is the second largest PC software manufacturer in Canada.

"The creation of WordPerfect Canada will help the company better serve the Canadian marketplace through a Canadian-dedicated work force," said Ad Rietveld, president and CEO of WordPerfect Corporation.

Rietveld said WordPerfect Canada's mandate is to be responsive to the specific needs and opportunities of the Canadian marketplace and to become integrated into the Canadian business community.

As an independent profit center, WordPerfect Canada will make business decisions based on the financial indicators unique to Canada. The organization will be headed by Stanley G. Weiss, general manager of WordPerfect Canada at WordPerfect Corporation. In his former role as director of Canadian business development, Weiss and his team analyzed WordPerfect Corporation's Canadian operations and created an organizational structure to better serve the Canadian market.

"WordPerfect Canada is well positioned to build upon the company's existing market share dominance," said Weiss. "We are committed to developing, marketing and supporting world-class applications software that meets the communications needs of our customers. We are also committed to aggressively participate in the Canadian business community."

Weiss will be assisted in the direction of WordPerfect Canada by Erick Mosteller, director of Canadian channel sales and marketing, and

Thomas A. Rhoton, director of Canadian sales.

WordPerfect Corporation, headquartered in Orem, Utah, is a privately held company that develops business software to help people process, share and present information across a wide variety of computer operating systems. Among the company's key products are the world's best-selling word processor, WordPerfect, as well as WordPerfect Office, WordPerfect InForms and WordPerfect Presentations.

Recognized for its leadership in providing outstanding customer support, WordPerfect Corporation is represented throughout the world by 57 international affiliates serving 117 countries with products in 28 languages.

WORDPERFECT CORPORATION
AND
ADDISON-WESLEY
ANNOUNCE
NEW PUBLISHING VENTURE

WordPerfect Corporation Expands Electronic Publishing Division

OREM, Utah - January 31, 1994 - WordPerfect Corporation today announced that Addison-Wesley Publishing Company will publish a new line of print and electronic media products under the imprint WordPerfect Press. These task-oriented books will focus on helping business and home users discover new ways to use WordPerfect Corporation products.

Company executives view WordPerfect Press as an integral part of the overall business strategy. The Press will allow WordPerfect to educate its new and existing customer base about its products while simultaneously supporting marketing and sales efforts. The WordPerfect Press label will assure buyers that the material is accurate and from the source.

We are very excited to be working with WordPerfect Corporation to develop this new publishing program, said Steve Stansel, general manager of Addison-Wesley's Trade Computer Books program. *Our mutual goal is to bring to market a series of books and electronic products that will take a fresh look at how people use WordPerfect Corporation applications at work and at home.*

Titles will include the text in electronic form, allowing readers to use the books online. The disks will also contain software, such as macros and templates, giving readers the tools needed to accomplish the tasks described in the text.

WordPerfect Press is moving beyond traditional publishing by including an electronic version in addition to the printed text, said Don Emery, vice president of Electronic Publishing at WordPerfect Corporation. *Combining text with software turns a static book into a dynamic learning tool.*

Addison-Wesley officials say this is the first time a publisher will consistently include an electronic version of the book with the printed version. *This allows WordPerfect Press to provide readers with

supplementary materials that will add a lot of value to the book,* said Stansel.

WordPerfect Press, part of WordPerfect Corporation*s Electronic Publishing division, will expand both companies* product lines of electronic reference works. The Press will also assist in WordPerfect Corporation*s commitment to supporting its customers by offering users specialized books on all the companies* products.

Not only will these books teach users about new features in our products and innovative ways to use existing features but they will also serve as an additional reference source, added Emery.

Book titles have not yet been released but plans call for eight books to be ready for customers by the end of the year with some titles ready by mid-year. WordPerfect Corporation is emphasizing that it will continue to work with outside authors and publishers as it has in the past.

Addison-Wesley is a worldwide publisher of professional, educational, and general interest books and materials based in Reading, Massachusetts, and is a recognized leader in the fields of computer science, engineering, mathematics, science and physics.

WordPerfect Corporation, founded in 1979, is headquartered in Orem, Utah. The privately held company manufactures business software to help people process, share and present information across a wide variety of computer operating systems. Among the company*s key products are the world*s most popular word processor, WordPerfect, as well as WordPerfect Office, WordPerfect InForms and WordPerfect Presentations.

Recognized for its leadership in providing outstanding customer support, WordPerfect Corporation is represented throughout the world by 57 international affiliates serving 117 countries with products in 28 languages.

:HOW TO GET YOUR OWN GENIE ACCOUNT:

Set your communications software to Half Duplex (or Local Echo)

Call: (with modem) 800-638-8369.

Upon connection type HHH (RETURN after that).

Wait for the U#= prompt.

Type: XTX99587,CPUREPT then, hit RETURN.

Are your friends "busy" buddies? Are they being left out in the cold because their online service doesn't have room for them? Is "Almost OnLine" as close as they're getting to BEING online? Are they faced with busy signals, "come back later" messages and slow response?

Well, we know how frustrated they must feel. We've been there -- done that! But, that's no longer the Case on GENie. We've got the room,

we've got the fun and we've got the greatest users....people just like you! So why not invite your buddies to join you on GENie?

We've designed a slick promotion in order to give you the opportunity to be a hero to your friends. To get them back online, get them some free time, and introduce them to GENie Services. What you don't have to tell them is that you get something out of the deal, too!

For each new user you bring to GENie, we'll waive their first month's subscription fee, and give them a total of TEN free hours of standard connect time -- that's a \$38.95 (C\$50.95) value! If you and your buddy are still active GENie subscribers three months from the date your buddy signs up, YOU get five hours of FREE standard connect time -- a \$15.00 (C\$20.00) value for each buddy you sponsor!

And, for a limited time, you can even qualify for SPECIAL PRIZES!!!

In addition to the five hours of standard connect time, prizes will be awarded to the three sponsors who bring in the most qualifying buddies between February 3, 1994 and March 31, 1994. The third-place Buddy sponsor will receive a GENie satin jacket. The second-place Buddy sponsor will receive a 9600 bps modem. And the first-place buddy sponsor will receive a \$500 gift certificate good at your favorite computer store.

Like everything good, there are a few rules for the GENie Buddy Bonus Program. You'll find the complete promotion rules on the GENie Services Buddy Bonus page (type BUDDY or M1111). Be sure you review the complete rules before you contact your friends.

So, if your buddies have been bragging about that other online service, just remind them that a pretty interface ain't worth squat if it doesn't log on! Bring them over to GENie....we may not be pretty just yet, but we're definitely more fun! And, if a GUI is that important to them, tell them that we'll have both Mac and Windows front ends before the other guys get more computers!

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The Macintosh RoundTable

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for ALL GENie users!

MAC/APPLE SECTION (II)

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Randy Noak, Editor

Last week I told you all about a special announcement this week, so here it is!

For Immediate Release
February 4, 1994

Southlake, Inc. in conjunction with Silicon Times Report is pleased to announce MAC REPORT MONTHLY. MAC REPORT MONTHLY (MRM) is an on-line, monthly electronic newsletter dealing exclusively with the Macintosh. Using RTF technology, MRM will offer many features not available in other electronic newsletters. Randy Noak, Southlake, Inc. President and MAC REPORT MONTHLY Publisher and Editor stated, "By combining both text and graphics, MRM will be attractive and easy to read as well as being informative."

MRM will be uploaded to America On Line, CompuServe, GENie and Delphi around the second week of every month. Randy Noak says, " We feel that combining the immediacy of the weekly Silicon Times Report and the expanded Mac information of MAC REPORT MONTHLY is a move that will benefit the entire Mac community."

The MAC REPORT MONTHLY staff will consist of:

Randy Noak - Editor

Randy Noak, Mac Report Editor, has published, edited and written for hard copy publications and has been involved with computers since he got his state-of-the-art Atari 400. Randy has also toiled as a beta-tester for system and application software for various platforms. Besides Editing Mac Report, Randy is a Quality Assurance Lab Technician at one of Northwest Indiana's famous steel mills and is President of Southlake, Incorporated.

Randy lives in the cornfields of Northwest Indiana with his patient, understanding wife, Nikki, and his children, Valerie and Andrew. His older daughter Megan runs a comic book store and his daughter Anna is in the U.S. Air Force.

Jeff Coe - Senior Associate Editor

Jeff Coe has been an avid computer hobbyist since the early 80s, when he purchased his first computer for the sole purpose of playing ZORK, and other text adventure games from Infocom. That first system, an Atari 800XL, has since been replaced by an Atari 1040ST, a Tandy MS-DOS system (which didn't stick around too long), and ultimately, a Macintosh LCII. Jeff has been involved in several Users Groups over the years as, at various times, newsletter editor, software librarian, and president. He is also currently a parent volunteer for tech support in a program that has put Macintosh computers in the home of every 4th grade student in the local school district (although that's the subject of a future article!).

Jeff is married to a very loving and patient woman named Debbie, and

they have two children whose talents he uses extensively to get into the higher levels on the game software he reviews for STReport. He lives in northwest Indiana, where he makes his living as an automotive service technician (a mechanic). Jeff welcomes your comments and suggestions about his reviews. He can be reached on-line at the following addresses: on America Online, send mail to "STReportJC", and on the GENie network he can be contacted as "J.COEl".

Guillaume Brasseur - Associate Editor, Games

Guillaume Brasseur is a French student living in San Francisco. He has been living in San Francisco for over ten years and looks forward to going to college in the fall. He has been using Macintosh computers since the age of twelve and has recently bought a new Mac, the Performa 550. He enjoys snow boarding, when he has the chance to head to the mountains, reading and talking with others. Guillaume is 17 and single and loves to have fun.

Steven Kiepe - Associate Editor, Applications

Steven Kiepe has been a writer and editor for several computer publications including Current Notes magazine. In addition to his current use of Macintosh computers, his computing experience included mainframe programming in Fortran in the 1970's and stints as an owner of Commodore 64, Atari ST and various MS DOS/CPM computers. Steve is a Naval Officer and helicopter pilot serving in San Diego, Ca.

John Donohue - Associate Editor, DTP & Graphics

Born and raised in Pennsylvania (suburbs of Harrisburg). Started playing golf at the age of 10, turned professional at the age of 23 and moved to Florida. Became head professional at a country club in May of 1976 in Orlando, Florida and remained there until January 1988.

First computer purchase was a Tandy Model III with a whopping 24k of ram and 2 internal disk drives. Soon moved on to the Model IV to increase the ram up to 64k. Less than a year later it was on to the Model 1000 and PC compatibility. I soon realized 1 computer wasn't enough for business AND pleasure and purchased a PC XT with a huge 20 meg hard drive. I was in heaven.

In October of 1987 I saw an Atari 1040 ST and thought (because of the GUI) this is computing! I was hooked on the graphics capabilities (Publishing Partner) and soon sold my Tandy 1000 and XT to purchase a 1040 ST. I gradually increased both power and productivity with purchases of a Mega 4, a Mega STe and finally a TT Atari computer. Along with an extensive library of clipart and Adobe Typefaces I soon found myself completely immersed in how to layout a page of text and or graphics. There weren't enough hours in the day.

In April of 93 I made the decision to switch platforms and purchased my present hardware set-up. Finally made it to the rest of the world. Currently my clients include 3 of the 5 major print shops in Highlands County, Florida, and an advertising agency based in Washington DC.

Melanie Bell - Associate Editor, Education

Melanie Bell, a Mac admirer, fell in love with the ease of use doing work study at college. She is a first grade teacher and taught third

framework.

"System software technology is evolving from the monolithic, standalone application approach to the more flexible and powerful compound document approach, where computing is centered around documents using many applications, or parts, interacting in concert with each other," Nassi said.

"OpenDoc is the path to this new way of computing and Apple's enhancements to Bedrock will be the ideal way to ensure developers can migrate their code to this exciting new technology.

"It's also in keeping with Apple goal of providing developers with the most appropriate choice of tools and frameworks to do cross platform development."

"Apple's plan to base the OpenDoc parts framework on Bedrock will ensure that developers have access to one of the most extensive sets of C++ class libraries for cross-platform development," said Gene Wang, Symantec's executive vice president for applications and development tools. "We are pleased that Bedrock will be used as a foundation for OpenDoc parts."

Under the terms of the agreement, Symantec grants Apple a world-wide, perpetual license to distribute and further develop Bedrock. Additionally, Apple grants Symantec a worldwide perpetual license to use specific Apple technology in future Symantec products.

Symantec Corporation (NASDAQ: SYMC) develops, markets and supports a complete line of application and system software products for IBM personal computers and compatibles, and Apple Macintosh computers.

THIS RELEASE MOVED OVER PR NEWSWIRE AT 8:40 AM, EST ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1994

Apple Elects Jergen Hintz To Its Board Of Directors

CUPERTINO, California February 1, 1994 B. Jergen Hintz, chief executive officer of \$4.5 billion Anglo-French packaging company Carnaud Metalbox, has been elected to the board of Apple Computer, Inc.

Mr. Hintz, a German-born American, has also been executive vice president and director at the Procter & Gamble Company. Announcing his election, Mike Markkula, Apple chairman, said, " Jergen Hintz is a truly global marketeer. His wide experience as head of a multinational corporation based in France, combined with this earlier experience at Procter & Gamble will bring new perspectives to our board."

Mr. Hintz joins the Apple board as a Class 1 director, effective immediately. He will be eligible for re-election in January 1995.

THIS RELEASE MOVED OVER PR NEWSWIRE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1994 AT 8:35AM, EDT.

Apple Unveils Two New All-In-One Macintosh Computers for Education at the Florida Educational Technology Conference Apple Continues to Raise the Standard for Affordable, Easy-to-use Desktop Computing Solutions with the New Macintosh LC 575 and LC 550

TAMPA, Florida--February 2, 1994--Apple Computer, Inc. has broadened its product line offering for educators with the announcement today of two new powerful, low-cost Macintosh LC computers: the Macintosh LC 575 and LC 550. Building on the success of the Macintosh LC 520 and its unique all-in-one system ideally suited for schools, these two new computers support Apple's commitment to provide technology solutions that meet the needs of the K-12 and higher education market.

"The LC 575 and the LC 550 represent easy-to-use, versatile computing solutions that combine media features that greatly enhance the teaching and learning process in classrooms and labs," said Cheryl Vedoe, vice president and general manager of Apple USA's K-12 Education Division. "These two new additions to the LC product family underscore Apple's commitment to bring powerful, yet affordable solutions to the education marketplace."

The new Macintosh LC 575 provides power, convenience and versatility in one workstation. The integrated multimedia features of the Macintosh LC 575 make it an ideal solution for classrooms, labs and teacher desktops. For educators looking to bring the advantages of Macintosh technology to more students, the Macintosh LC 550 is the lowest-cost all-in-one computer, making it a great choice for entry-level student computing needs.

The Macintosh LC 575--A Powerful All-in-One Education Workstation
The Macintosh LC 575 combines the power of the high-performance 68040LC microprocessor and the convenience of the all-in-one design to create the ideal education workstation for students and teachers. This computer is an excellent choice for classrooms, labs and teacher desktops. It can handle a wide range of tasks--from word processing to science projects to multimedia presentations--at speeds up to three times faster than the Macintosh LC 520, which is comparable to the Macintosh Quadra 800.

The Macintosh LC 575 allows students and teachers to easily take advantage of today's multimedia applications because everything is built-in: a brilliant, high-resolution 14-inch Sony Trinitron color display capable of displaying more than 32,000 colors; stereo speakers; a microphone; and a new internal tray-loading CD-ROM drive, The AppleCD 300i Plus. This double-speed CD-ROM drive also supports multi session Kodak PhotoCDs and plays standard audio CDs. These integrated multimedia features let students take advantage of the growing number of CD-based educational software applications and multimedia technologies that enhance teaching and learning.

The Macintosh LC 575 also features a new enhanced, flexible communications slot, providing educators with additional flexibility. For example, educators can now take advantage of new low-cost, high-speed networking cards. The new communications slot can be configured with any one of three Ethernet cards (supporting Twisted Pair, Thin Coax and AAUI) or a high-speed 14400 fax/modem based on the PowerBook Express Modem. The cards are easy to remove and replace, making the LC 575 easy to integrate into diverse school environments.

"The LC 575 communications slot addresses the customer need for built-in, flexible high-performance communications capabilities," commented Vedoe. "As computers continue to become an integral component of collaborative workgroup settings, easy-to-use networking capabilities are critical."

The Macintosh LC 550--an Affordable All-in-one Student Workstation With its built-in features and all-in-one design, the Macintosh LC 550 student workstation provides powerful and versatile computing at an extremely attractive price. Featuring a 33-megahertz 68030 microprocessor and an optional 68882 math coprocessor, the Macintosh LC 550 is an excellent general-purpose student workstation that can run applications up to 25 percent faster than the Macintosh LC III.

The Macintosh LC 550 comes with everything students need to handle tasks from writing reports to analyzing data. With its built-in high-resolution 14-inch Sony Trinitron color display, stereo speakers and microphone, this computer makes it easy for students to explore, compose and express themselves in more creative and effective ways than ever before. And with its built-in slot for an internal CD-ROM drive, the Macintosh LC 550 can be easily upgraded to the new tray-loading AppleCD 300i Plus CD-ROM drive at a later date.

Powerful Built-In Macintosh Technology

The new communications slot is unique to the Macintosh LC 575, however, both new systems have incorporated the expansion capabilities of the LC family with an LC processor direct slot (LC-PDS). This slot will allow users to immediately take advantage of most expansion cards available for the Macintosh LC line such as NTSC video-out, video capture, and Apple IIe emulation cards.

Both new Macintosh LC models can support up to 33 megabytes of RAM, allowing teachers and students to work with memory-intensive applications, as well as multiple programs simultaneously. The LC 575 comes standard with a minimum of 5 megabytes of RAM and a 160 megabyte hard disk drive, and the 550 comes standard with 4 megabytes of RAM and a 160 megabyte hard disk drive.

The Macintosh LC 575 and the LC 550 are equipped with Apple's System 7.1 operating system. System 7.1 includes multitasking and file-sharing capabilities, as well as CloseView, Easy Access and visible-beep software solutions for students with disabilities.

The Macintosh LC 575 and the LC 550 also include all the traditional Macintosh features such as built-in AppleTalk networking, and serial and high-speed SCSI ports, enabling users to connect to a variety of peripheral devices like scanners, cameras and modems. Both models come standard with a built-in, 1.4-megabyte Apple SuperDrive floppy disk drive that reads, writes and formats Macintosh, MS-DOS, OS/2, and Windows disks. In addition, they both include the Apple Desktop Bus (ADB), which supports a keyboard, mouse or other input device.

PowerPC Upgrade Option

To provide educators the flexibility to add new capabilities while protecting their technology investments, Apple plans to provide PowerPC processor upgrades for both the Macintosh LC 575 and LC 550. Additionally, Apple plans to provide PowerPC chip upgrades for all the Macintosh

LC/Performa 500 series (including the LC 520) and the LC 475. (See today's related release on PowerPC upgrades for LC products.) The new PowerPC microprocessor, developed by Apple, IBM and Motorola, will fuel Apple's next generation of computers and will provide customers with significant price/performance gains.

Compliant with EPA Energy Star Program

The LC 575 and the LC 550 continue to demonstrate Apple's commitment to the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program. Like the LC 520 and other Macintosh products, the new computers automatically reduce power consumption to less than 30 watts when idle, a feature that could cut the electricity used by the system by more than 50 percent. Through the screen control panel, users simply define the period of time the computer can be inactive before the power-down feature starts.

Availability and Pricing

Available immediately, the Macintosh LC 575, LC 550 and upgrade options will be offered to any qualified K-12 and higher education institutions in the United States in the configuration and prices stated below. Distribution, pricing and configurations will vary outside the United States.

U.S. Configuration	U.S. K-12 Price
Macintosh LC 575 5MB RAM/ 160MB hard drive, internal tray-loading CD-ROM, 512/1MB VRAM with Keyboard II	\$1,699
Macintosh LC 550 4MB RAM/ 160MB hard drive, 512/1MB VRAM with Keyboard II	\$1,199
Apple Ethernet LC Cards (for the LC 575) Twisted pair AAUI Thin Coax	\$84
Apple IIe Emulation Card	\$123.30

For additional information regarding pricing for higher education institutions, please call: 1-800-793-3389. For additional pricing information for the K-12 market, please call: 1-800-800-2775.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Availability Outside the U.S.

Outside the U.S., the LC 575 and 550 models will be available to the Pacific region and targeted at all of Apple's market segments-- education, home or business. In the U.S., they will be sold into the K-12 and higher education markets only initially. For more information regarding availability outside the U.S. see the accompanying release entitled, "Apple Unveils its Most Powerful, All-in-one Low-Cost Computer Yet."

THIS RELEASE MOVED OVER PR NEWSWIRE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1994 AT 8:34AM, EDT.

Apple Unveils its Most Powerful, All-in-one Low-Cost Computer Yet

The Macintosh LC 575 Continues to Raise the Standard for Affordable, Easy-to-Use, All-in-one Desktop Computing

CUPERTINO, California--February 2, 1994--Apple Computer, Inc. today has added the new Macintosh LC 575 to its industry-leading all-in-one LC product line. The LC 575 makes it easy for people to integrate a multimedia and communications solution for a range of worldwide users in school, home and business environments.

With a 33-megahertz Motorola 68040 microprocessor, the Macintosh LC 575 offers performance comparable to the Macintosh Quadra 800, or three times that of today's popular Macintosh LC 520. It also has an internal double-speed tray-loading CD-ROM drive, built-in Trinitron color display and stereo speakers.

"The award-winning, all-in-one Macintosh LC series has fast become one of Apple's most popular offerings. The new Macintosh LC 575 breaks price barriers for powerful entry-level systems while reinforcing Apple's business strategy to provide productivity and multimedia technology solutions to customers in homes, schools and small businesses," said Ian Diery, executive vice president and general manager of Apple's Personal Computer Division.

Apple also announced it plans to provide PowerPC processor upgrades for all the Macintosh LC/Performa 500 series of computers, including the Macintosh LC 575, 550, 520 and Performa 550. In addition, Apple plans to make upgrades available for the Macintosh LC 475. (See today's related release on PowerPC processor upgrades for Macintosh LC products.) The new PowerPC microprocessor, developed by Apple, IBM and Motorola, will fuel Apple's next generation of computers and will provide customers with significant price/performance gains.

Integrated, Media-Rich Features

Like all Macintosh computers, the Macintosh LC 575 is easy to set up, learn, use and expand. It comes complete with many built-in features such as enhanced color support, double-speed CD-ROM, networking, one expansion slot, one communications slot, a SCSI interface, microphone and stereo sound. These sophisticated features give users a media-rich environment, which will help redefine the way they learn and work.

The Macintosh LC 575 blends plug-and-play simplicity and the convenience of an all-in-one design with a powerful 68040 microprocessor. The 575 has an integrated high-quality 14-inch Sony Trinitron color display that delivers a screen resolution of 640 pixels x 480 pixels using more than 32,000 colors (16-bit). In addition to its built-in stereo speakers and microphone, the Macintosh LC 575 includes a new internal tray-loading double-speed CD-ROM drive, The AppleCD 300i Plus. This drive also supports multi session Kodak PhotoCDs and provides 16-bit sound out from audio CDs.

The Macintosh LC 575 also comes standard with a minimum of 4 megabytes of RAM and a hard disk as large as 320 megabytes. The computer can support up to 36 megabytes of RAM, allowing users to work with powerful multimedia applications and use multiple applications simultaneously. It also comes standard with a built-in, 1.4-megabyte Apple SuperDrive floppy-disk drive that reads, writes and formats Macintosh, MS-DOS, OS/2 and Windows disks.

Built-In Communications Flexibility and Expansion

The Macintosh LC 575 features a new enhanced, flexible communications slot. The communications slot can easily be configured by the user to accept any one of three Ethernet cards (Twisted Pair, Thin Coax or Apple's AAUI) or a high-speed 14400 fax/modem card based on the PowerBook Express Modem. These small (pocket-comb size) low-cost cards offer users the latest in high-speed networking and telecommunications capabilities. They can be easily removed and replaced if a user's needs change. The dedicated communication slot enables the Macintosh LC 575 to easily fit into any computing environment, because the computer's other slot, the Macintosh LC processor direct slot (LC-PDS), remains open to support other future user needs.

The LC-PDS will allow users to immediately take advantage of all expansion cards available for the Macintosh LC line such as NTSC video-out, video capture, and Apple IIe emulation cards.

The Macintosh LC 575 is also equipped with all the "traditional" Macintosh features such as built-in AppleTalk networking, as well as serial and high-speed SCSI ports, which enable users to connect to a variety of peripheral devices like scanners, cameras and modems. In addition, the computer includes an Apple Desktop Bus (ADB) port, which supports a keyboard or other input device.

Pre-Installed System Software

The Macintosh LC 575 comes pre-configured with Apple's System 7.1 operating system. System 7.1 includes multitasking and file-sharing capabilities, as well as CloseView, Easy Access and visible-beep software solutions for users with disabilities.

Compliant with EPA Energy Star Program

Like the Macintosh LC 520, the Macintosh LC 575 continues to demonstrate Apple's commitment to the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program. The Macintosh LC 575 automatically reduces power consumption to less than 30 watts when idle, a feature that could cut the electricity used by the system by more than 50 percent. Through an on-screen control panel, users simply define the period of time the computer can be inactive before the power-down feature starts.

Availability and Pricing

Available immediately, the Macintosh LC 575's distribution, pricing and configurations will vary.

U.S. Configuration	U.S. Price
Macintosh LC 575/160MB HD, Education Channel Internal tray-loading CD-ROM 5MB RAM/1MB VRAM with Keyboard II	\$1,699 / U.S.

Apple Ethernet LC Cards:	\$84.00
Twisted Pair	
AAUI	
Thin Coax	
Apple IIe Emulation Card	\$123.30

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Lowest-Cost, All-in-one Macintosh Apple also announced today the Macintosh LC 550. The Macintosh LC 550 shares the same integrated design and multimedia features of the 575, but is based on 33 megahertz 68030 microprocessor technology. The U.S. Education Channel price will be \$1,199, making the Macintosh LC 550 Apple's lowest-cost all-in-one design available. This new computer offers a single configuration and can be upgraded to Apple's new tray-loading CD-ROM drive.

Outside the United States, the Macintosh LC 575 and 550 models are targeted at all of Apple's market segments: education, home and business. Within the United States, they will initially be sold into the K-12 and higher education markets only.

THIS RELEASE MOVED OVER PR NEWSWIRE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1994 AT 12:18PM, PST.

Apple Announces PowerPC Technology Upgrade Options for Quadra 605, Selected LC and Performa Models

CUPERTINO, California--February 2, 1994--Apple Computer, Inc., today further detailed its extensive plans to provide current Macintosh customers with an easy upgrade path to Macintosh with PowerPC . Apple announced it plans to offer upgrades based on the PowerPC microprocessor for many of its best selling entry-level business, education and consumer products.

Apple plans to provide upgrades for its current line of all-in-one personal computers including the LC 520, 550, 575, as well as the Performa 550. In addition, Apple plans to make future PowerPC upgrades available for LC 475, Quadra 605, and Performa 475/76 product lines. The upgrades will boost performance up to two to four times on existing Macintosh models when running native applications.

PowerPC is a family of RISC (Reduced Instruction Set) microprocessors, developed jointly by Apple, IBM and Motorola. The new chip will fuel the next generation of Macintosh computers. The first computers based on the chip are slated to be introduced in the first half of 1994 and join the Macintosh family of computers in mid-range and high-end systems.

"Virtually all of our current Macintosh systems being sold today now have an easy upgrade path to the future," said Ian Diery, executive vice president and general manager of Apple's Personal Computer Division. "Apple's goal is to make PowerPC technology accessible to the broadest number of customers possible, and make it easy for customers to make their move to increased performance when they are ready."

The upgrades announced today are in addition to those recently detailed, which include: Macintosh Quadra 840AV, 800, 660AV, 650 and 610 models; the Macintosh Centris 660AV, 650 and 610 computers; and the Macintosh IIVX, vi and Performa 600 products. Additionally, owners of the Apple Workgroup server 60, 80 and 95 will be offered logic board upgrades to PowerPC processor-based systems which will run a version of the Macintosh System 7 operating system for the PowerPC processor.

Apple and Third-Party Options

Apple continues to work on upgrades in conjunction with selected third-party developers to provide an array of options for customers

to upgrade to PowerPC technology.

That's it for this week. As always, please feel free to send your comments or questions to me at:

America OnLine: STReportRN
Compuserve: 70323,1031
GEnie: R.NOAK

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ATARI/JAG SECTION (III)

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Dana Jacobson, Editor

> From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

""""""""""

Well, back from the dead, at last! Although not fully recovered from a month-long bout with double-pneumonia; I'm well enough to have returned to work. Sheesh, what a mistake that was. There was more paperwork piled up waiting for me than I ever thought possible! My desk reminded me of the one in the cartoon strip, "Shoe." Oh well. My doctor says perhaps another 4 weeks of feeling run down, so I'm still trying to take it easy.

I don't have a lot to say this week. Partially, it's due to trying to play catch-up at work and really feeling exhausted by the time I want to start some writing/reporting. Mostly, I've been keeping tabs of what's been happening online on Delphi and Compuserve. There's really not much new happening, whether it be on the computer or Jaguar front. One notable Jaguar piece of information that I picked up in the Atari Gaming area on CIS was that "Star Raiders 2000" will be released soon. Star Raiders was one title that hadn't been mentioned in the numerous lists of upcoming games, so those of you who enjoyed the previous renditions of the game should keep tabs on this one! No other details about the game have been mentioned yet.

No dates have been mentioned for the beginning of the Jaguar's national roll-out, but machines are available in various areas across the country regardless. It appears that many sources are out of stock while others have various numbers of games and consoles. If you're looking for a specific title but can't find it nearby, I'd recommend asking online to see where people are finding titles and machines. You can also order directly from Atari if you don't want to search around. While we're all waiting for the national push to start, enthusiasm for the machine and available titles is still high - a good sign. Hopefully, Atari will finalize their national plans and get the ball rolling again to maintain their momentum before it falters.

When I first considered taking over the Atari section of STReport, one of the initial goals that I had given myself was to re-establish a working relationship with Atari. I also mentioned this goal in my first column as Atari editor. Personally, I feel that it's important for any Atari-related medium to have a good report with Atari. There have been many ups and downs over the years between us, for a variety of reasons. Some of it was based on Atari's own bumpy road over the years, and reflected in our issues. We've been supportive; and we've been critical. At times we've been so frustrated that some of our issues were based around an intent to wake up some people at Atari. It has been frustrating for both Atari, and us.

My first concern at re-establishing mutual support was how to maintain our aim to "tell it like it is" without destroying a new bond. Well, I knew that if we were going to establish this relationship, it

would mean gaining valuable information that our readers would appreciate. It would mean being able to better promote Atari products which would result in an even better "alliance." It would also result in providing you, our readers and greatest asset, an opportunity to become better informed. We could still maintain our editorial viewpoints by being better informed. With firsthand information, I'd have no choice but to take advantage of that and have the ability to generate more responsible opinions.

That's been our goal all along, but there is that occasional chance that personalities would clash and create situations that none of us really wants to be in. That had happened, and grew to a point that just made things impossible to work effectively. Atari, with a brief period of "inactivity" and clashes subsiding, came into a new era for itself with the Jaguar. New enthusiasm erupted in Sunnyvale, and the userbase. Things also changed with STReport, as our new format shows. It was time again to make some positive changes.

Well, although a working relationship is still very young, it has been established. I won't go into details at this time, but things are looking very positive these days. 1994 seems to be the year for Atari and STReport to grow by leaps and bounds. It's going to take some time; and it's going to take some building of trust, but the groundwork has been established and there's actually enthusiasm to work together. I'm extremely excited about this new opportunity (could you tell?) and I'm sure that you'll all benefit. Stay tuned!

Again, we're still looking for people to work with STReport by doing reviews or articles. This is an exciting time for STReport, and a good time to get in on the fun. If you're interested, even in an occasional bit of writing, please get in touch with me. I can be reached easily on Delphi (DPJ), Compuserve (73057,327), GENie (D.JACOBSON2), or Toad Hall (617-567-8642 or 569-2489). I look forward to hearing from many of you!

Well, let me cut this short again this week. There's plenty here to keep you busy reading without my rambling even more!

Until next time...

-Dana

Delphi's Atari Advantage Top Ten Downloads

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) ST ZIP 2.4 | (6) COMPUTER PATIENCE |
| (2) LHARC VERSION 2.99 | (7) TOWERS |
| (3) CD ROM INFO | (8) TELECOMMUNICATIONS GLOSSARY |
| (4) TOAD'S SYSINFO | (9) PFXPAK V3.0 |
| (5) BRODIE CES CONFERENCE | (10) JENS SENDS SHOCKER 2 |

HONORARY TOP 10

The following on-line magazines are always top downloads, frequently out-performing every other file in the databases.

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For subscription orders or information, Pegasus Press, Inc., has opened a new toll-free CONNECT magazine subscription line. Call 1-800-GET-CONNECT (1-800-438-2666) to sign up today.

PCD Sampler Volume I contains 20 professional images in Kodak Photo CD format. The images are ready for use with Photo Show Pro, Studio Photo, Gem View, True Paint and any other Atari application that supports the Kodak Photo CD imaging system.

After my last "FALCON ONLY" special and the complaints from ST/STe users, we will extend our offer to registered users of View II.

The "PCD Sampler - Volume I" can also be used on the PC, Mac, and CD-I machines with appropriate software. Photography was done by Louis Back, Berlin.

--- MUSIC/MIDI CONFERENCE ---

The Old Fishin' Hole

- A Guide to the Online PD/Shareware Waters.

by John R. Duckworth

Well, it looks like the excitement surrounding the Superbowl is finally over (like we didn't know who would win <g>) so it's time to get back to what we all know and love...our computers. This week I'm going to take a look at an updated version of one of my top shareware picks of 1993 by an industrious programmer in Canada, Michel Forget. Before I get any further, allow me to share some background information about Michel and why he decided to develop "MasterBrowse".

"MasterBrowse" grew out of a sort of frustration...Michel had attempted to learn the "C" programming language two times without totally succeeding. He decided that the best way to learn something was through application, so he chose the project of a text viewer for the ST which is based on an example by Ian Lepore. With permission from Ian, he started to modify the source code and added many new features such as bookmarks, keyboard shortcuts, searching, printing, and more. After he felt satisfied, Michel realized that the resulting program was too good to keep all to himself so he released it to the public. Since that first version of "MasterBrowse" many changes have taken place, which he has continually updated almost twenty times. Although there are no time limits or other restrictions on the public version of "MasterBrowse", Michel has set up an incentive program to entice folks into registering such as a smaller/faster personalized version and a discount on software from Suzy B's.

"MasterBrowse 3.5" by Michel Forget of Electric Storm Software is the BEST text file viewer for the ST/TT/Falcon series of computers that I have come across. "MasterBrowse" (referred to as MB for the rest of this review) will work on any TOS version with or without MultiTOS installed and has been thoroughly tested on most every configuration imaginable. Installation of MB is very simple, and Michel provides detailed instructions for all users including those who run MultiTOS, NeoDesk, TeraDesk, or Gemini. A client program is provided for those who use MultiTOS which checks to make sure only one copy of MB is executed for a given session. A picture viewer (not supplied) can also be installed utilizing the client program which will execute the viewer whenever an installed picture type is selected from the desktop.

"MasterBrowse" has so many features it is almost impossible for me to cover all of them within the confines of this column. With that in mind, I will try to touch on those feature which places MB ahead of the other text viewers. First, and most importantly, MB is a 100% GEM compliant program and does not mess with any of the user's system settings. The application allows the user to set options for their own personal tastes and needs. For example, display colors for the text and windows can be mapped to any of the desktop's available colors. Scroll bars for windows (which MB uses to display the text files in) may be turned on or off at will, and unique titles may be applied to any open text window. Other options which the user may change include: scroll movement base, cursor or application keypad, how blocks are displayed onscreen, text formatting for printing, and selecting whether grow/shrink boxes and progress indicators will be displayed. Of course most of the setting will be acceptable at their default status, but it is comforting to know that they may be changed


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The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING
=====

On CompuServe

compiled by
Joe Mirando

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. Yet another week has come and gone. The harshest winter in recent times still refuses to release the northeast from its grip... and we're all getting tired of it! More and more often, I think back to "The Shining". Can anyone who knows me picture me sticking my head through the hole that I just chopped in a bathroom door and chuckling "Heeeerrrrreeee's Joey!" I'm serious... it's been THAT kind of winter.

One of the few things that's been keeping me sane has been the fact that I'm able to communicate with others via CompuServe. So, without any further delay, let's get me my "sanity Fix"...

From the Atari Productivity Forum
=====

Hannes Ruegheimer tells us:

"For an article I'm currently working on, I am composing a chart with the character codes, different computer systems use for international characters like the German Umlauts. Can anybody (probably especially German ST users) just tell me which codes are used on the ST for the German special characters (Ae, ae, Oe, oe, Ue, ue and ss). Is it ANSI code or does the ST operating system use proprietary codes for these?"

Charles Cartwright tells Hannes:

"The ASCII codes (decimal) used by the ST system font are as follows:

```
Ae 142
ae 132
Oe 153
oe 148
Ue 154
ue 129
ss 158 or 225 (the two codes give identical characters)"
```


Jim Ness chimes in and adds this:

"In case nobody else has your answers, I'll try to muddle through this (without knowing the names of each of the special characters). Hopefully, I'll give you enough info.

Lower Case		Upper Case	
ae	= 145	AE	= 146
oe	= 180	OE	= 181
ue	= ?	UE	= ?

In ae and oe, you are asking for the character that looks like ae or oe pressed together, right? That's what I've provided, but there is nothing that looks like a ue pressed together.

There are several vowels with accents or dots over them."

Andrew Sayers asks for help:

"My son runs an Atari ST 1Mb, and is having problems using a modem with it.

He has a high speed 14.4K modem, and although he can connect onto a BBS with any problem, he get lots of "rubbish" characters along with the normal screens. Sometimes it is worse than others but always causes problems. Interestingly if he connects at 2400, everything works fine.

As a PC user, I've not experienced anything like this b4, so need some help and advice on curing this problem. The modem works correctly, when it has been connected to my PC it functions perfectly.

Hope there's an answer out the somewhere."

Our own Atari Section Editor, the multi-talented Dana Jacobson, tells Andrew:

"Usually, if he gets this "garbage" mixed in with normal screens, that "garbage" appears to be line noise. Calling boards that occasionally

are stricken with a line noise problem can be "rectified" by calling at slower speeds. If this is a constant problem, there may be a problem at either end. If it's intermittent, it could be due to just getting a bad line connection, or poor weather conditions. If it s just an intermittent problem, I wouldn't be concerned."

Sysop Ron Luks asks Andrew:

"What comms program is he using?"

Andrew tells Ron:

"Freeze dried terminal - this seems to be one of the better ones available but if there are others then I'd be glad to hear about them."

Dazzz Smith tells Andrew:

"Freeze Dried is one of the better non-commercial Comms proggies and

also due for an update RSN (c) Atari.

Just check that your son has RTS CTS enabled in the RS232 config screen.

He should also be running with a serial fix program in his auto folder to sort out a problem most Atari machines have in their serial port code. If he doesn't have one he should be able to find a number in the Libs here."

Sysop Bob Retelle, being the knowledgeable, helpful guy that he is, asks Andrew a few questions:

"When you tested the modem on your PC, were you calling the same BBSs, and from the same telephone number..? (That is, is your son living at the same location as you, so he'd be using the same line your PC does..?)

The symptoms you describe sound like line noise on the phone lines.. 2400 baud is a great deal less sensitive to this noise than the higher speeds are.

The question about where you were calling from, and where you were calling is because the interconnections of the telephone system can have a lot to do with how good a connection you get with a modem... if you called a different BBS than your son does, the phone connections may be just different enough to assure a noise-free line.. the same with using a different line to call from.

One of the best things to do when getting a noisy connection is to disconnect and call back.. you may get a slightly different routing through the phone system, and as a result get a more noise-free line.

I really don't think the kind of computer or software being used should have any effect on the noise problem at all.. it's all between the modem and the remote system. If it's really bad, you could call the telephone company and see if they'll do a check of your local phone line.. there may be a problem with the wiring somewhere."

Dazzz Smith asks Andrew:

"Can you tell us what software your son is using and what modem?

The problem may just be line noise, do you know what sort of phone exchange your on? i.e. is it digital?"

Andrew tells Dazzz:

"He's using Freeze Dried Terminal as comms software. I have been wondering about his serial port, I know Ataris have had problems with these. We've tried the serial fix progs, which seem to work ok. I'm not sure what exchange he's on, but as its a big exchange near London I assume its digital. Trouble is he doesn't actually live with me, but with his mother and so its difficult to test the line noise theory as my PC is actually quite some distance from his home, and on a different exchange.

I am also wondering about his init string - whats the best set-up for an atari ST?

He logs onto my BBS without any probs (its PC based) do you think there might be incompatibility probs between the PC graphics and the Atari emulations? Mind you ASCII doesn't make much difference, although "chat" mode works quite well if I set up my chat door as a VT52 emulation."

Dazzz tells Andrew:

"Init strings tend to vary an awful lot amongst some folks :-), it would depend on the type of modem, but normally factory defaults are OK as a rule for bog standard comms work.

Some emulation modes on your board may cause a few problems, but thats down to software more than anything else. I would say your first port of call would be to BT to check the line, if you can find out if its a digital exchange. If it is you could ask them to turn AGC off and see if that helps.

If asking about AGC, always talk directly to an exchange engineer, nobody else will know what the hell it is. :-)"

Peter Rosenbeck tells Andrew to:

"Check the following when running speeds beyond 2400 bps:

Both computer and modem must have hardware handshake (RTS/CTS) enabled Most modems do this with the AT&R0 command - sometimes the last digit differs. Atari's original RS232 routines had a bug concerning the RTS/CTS handshake (I think they still have it), but there are several fixes available (RS232ENC). Some COMM programmes also fix this problems themselves. Running speeds beyond 9600 bps might not be possible on all and every ST because the hardware wasn't designed for it. On my 7 year old ST I can run 19200 bps and that's enough to supply any 14400 modem."

James Port tells us:

"I've got a new client who has been using a 520ST to sequence his tunes. I know this isn't the MIDI section, but this hasn't got anything to do with MIDI. In the course of our conversation he started asking me about TOS and a TOS disk. Evidently, he bought the computer used from someone else who told him he needed a "Language Disk" to be able to access some of the things "in" the computer. Isn't the ST Language disk Atari ST BASIC? I have a feeling the fellow is real confused, and the seller was telling him a bunch of hoey. The computer isn't that old, the floppy is onboard, so it should've TOS on ROM. It hasn't got a hard drive either so anything he wants to get into, he'd have to have a floppy for, yes? So tell me. What is the Language disk?"

Sysop Jim Ness tells James:

"The "language disk" of later computers contained the CONTROL.ACC file and the VT52.ACC (simple terminal program). Maybe a couple of other things.

As you guessed, it USED to contain ST LOGO and ST Basic, also, but that was only at the beginning. So, it's called a language disk."

Pascal Gabriel tells us:

"I want to show the Joys of CompuServe to a handicapped friend who uses an Atari 1040. As I use a mac I'm not sure what modem and software to suggest for purchase - Is Information Manager running on the Atari as well?"

Master Sysop Ron Luks tells Pascal:

"There is no version of the CompuServe information Manager (CIM) for the Atari.

Your friend can use virtually any PC-compatible external modem on his Atari and for telecomm software we recommend STalker from GRibnif Software or Flash II from Missionware."

Sysop Jim Ness adds:

"I'm afraid there are not enough Atari ST users to warrant a version of CIM.

However, there are a number of terminal programs, if your friend is up to using the old-fashioned command-line interface CIS provides to non-CIM users.

Library 2 in this forum has some shareware programs, and there are a couple of highly recommended commercial telecom programs whose distributors support their programs in the ATARIVEN forum.

As for modems, any EXTERNAL modem which will work with a PC will work with the ST. The cable connections are the same."

Peter Breger posts:

"I am new to this forum, so I hope that I get posting this message right. I need some help with sending faxes via an Atari 1040 STFM and SupraFaxModem The hardware seems to work fine, although often the ends of pages seem to get lost, but problems with my TeleOffice software are phenomenal. How can one run this program sensibly on a 1Mbyte machine, with 20Mb Hard disk??? I can't even get an image file printed since they are too large to print. Does anybody know a printing program for .IMG files (on HP Deskjet 500) ? What experience doe other users have with 1Mb machines ?"

Sysop Ron Luks tells Peter:

"I'm not familiar with TeleOffice software. We've been recommending STRaightFax by Charles Smeton. By the reports posted here (and my own limited experience) it works very well."

From the Atari ST Arts Forum
=====

Here's proof positive that we CompuServe users aren't JUST a bunch of techno-geeks who like nothing better than to sit in front of our computers all day (although that IS fun <grin>). Beth Freeman posts:

"If you've got a food processor, I've got a marvelous and easy recipe for brownies that doesn't involve melt- ing chocolate (one of the pitfalls of baking with chocolate according to my uncle the chef). You

grind the chocolate (preferably when nobody's asleep) in the food processor and add a stick of melted margarine (or butter). This melts the chocolate, and then you add the sugar, flour, nuts and so forth. You can even microwave them, and they come out "sinful" according to my mom.

How do you feel about TIF files? I've got one of my friend's cat the one I wrote the story about. He's really cute. You want a copy of the file. You can print it out from PageStream."

Mike Mortilla replies to Beth:

"I DO have a food processor and everyone's asleep! <Very Big Grin>

Please do upload the TIF file. If you upload it to the forum you get credit for the upload time on your CompuServe bill. Upload enough stuff and you can really cut that bill down to size!

But here's another idea... why don't we create a Pagestream cookbook?!? We can get the Atari users mobilized to upload their favorite recipes to a specific area of the forum (Community Sq since that where we are) and we can compile a cookbook in PageStream format which all could download and print out? I sort of like the idea! And since I have a scanner, I'll be glad to offer free scanning for the graphics!

Well let's see who "bites..."?

Beth tells Mike:

"That sounds like a cool idea. I've already been making a list of recipes in Pagestream when we got our microwave. They're all microwave recipes I copied out of cookbooks (credit has been given to the cookbook).

Let's circulate the project, and let it take off. I can supply the template that I've used with my recipes."

Mike continues:

"Sounds good. I've been thinking about the cookbook and have an idea for a "standard." Maybe some "cumulative culinary" type of thing. An introduction describing what it is, and then the contributions.

Maybe as chapters (so the download won't be too big at any one time)? Let's think on it a bit, but in the mean time if you want to upload the microwave stuff as chapter 1 that sounds great. Chapters could be added to and re-uploaded as they grow. I've got some great tips to add. Like microwaving garlic for 8-10 seconds to get it to peel very easily!"

Sysop Ron Luks gives us a peek at one more of his many talents:

"Glad to see more cooking enthusiasts here. I'm a closet chef and just last night I was grumbling a lot about peeling a dozen cloves of garlic. I'll try your tip real soon."

From the Atari Vendors Forum
=====

Ian Fleming asks Rick Flashman at Gribnif Software about loading desktop information files into NeoDesk (One of the two programs that should be sold with every ST-series computer... the other one being Geneva, also from Gribnif):

"I am trying to load different desktops as well as ACC,s at boot up with XBoot.I have no problem with ACC's but I have failed with desktops. I have saved different desktops in my Neodesk folder and have the default one in the root directory.When I choose set a different one in XBoot and save the set.It always comes up with the default even though as it loads Xboot tells me it is setting my chosen desktop as the desktop inf. I have been saving different Neodesk.inf files."

Rick tells Ian:

"I'm a little confused. You cannot use a NEODESKx.INF as a DESKTOP.INF. Those files have completely different formats. In other words, you can save different DESKTOP.INF files from the built-in desktop and use XBOOT to change your DESKTOP.INF. Separately, you can save different NEODESKx.INF files and have XBOOT change your respective NEODESKx.INF file.

I have a couple suggestions about this, but first I want to make sure you have this concept straight."

Well folks, I know that the column is shorter than normal (stop applauding, you guys), but it's really getting late and I figure that I'll leave some room for someone else to enlighten us. Be sure to tune in again next week, same time, same station, and listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

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